Montana Outdoors

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JANUARY–FEBRUARY 2023

The 42nd Annual

PHOTO ISSUE

Montana Outdoors

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JANUARY–FEBRUARY 2023

One of the highlights of working for *Montana Outdoors* is choosing the cover of our hugely popular annual photo issue.

Art director Luke Duran selects all the images for the rest of the issue, a task he both relishes and agonizes over for weeks on end. From the roughly 1,600 photographs he receives each fall, Luke has to choose just a few dozen that exhibit, as stated in his instructions to photographers, "tones and hues across the color spectrum, masterful use of light and focus, great composition, and unique angles and perspectives...that demonstrate the photographer's thoughtfulness, artistry, and hard work."

For the cover, all three of us on staff vote on several images that Luke selects as having the right composition (vertical, with space up top for the *Montana Outdoors* banner) as well as outstanding visual appeal. FWP's magazine appears on newsstands across Montana and the entire Northwest. Its cover must compete with those gracing *National Geographic*, *Sports Illustrated*, *People*, and others for the attention of shoppers. The shot has to be stunning. This year our unanimous choice was for the striking photo of a bull moose in velvet lifting its massive head and antlers from a pond as it was feeding on underwater vegetation.

The shot was taken by Troy photographer Donald M. Jones, who has been contributing to this magazine for 30 years. He tells us he photographed the moose early one morning this past July in the Many Glacier area of Glacier National Park. "For me, it's all about getting the right perspective, and that morning I got real low, lying prone on a mat along the shore with my lens sitting on a skimmer pad in the water and then waiting for the moose to raise its head," Jones says. "With this particular shot, it all came together with the soft morning light diffused by the smoke in the air, not too much vegetation in its mouth, and all that water cascading off its antlers.

"Whether it's a moose or a praying mantis," Jones adds, "I want to look the animal right in the eye."

And that's what goes into just a single photograph. Luke has selected and artfully arranged another 101 for you on these and the following pages of our 42nd annual photo issue. We hope you enjoy admiring all of these beautiful images as much as we did selecting them.

—Tom Dickson, Editor

DONALD M. JONES
Cover: Bull moose rising from a lake in Glacier National Park

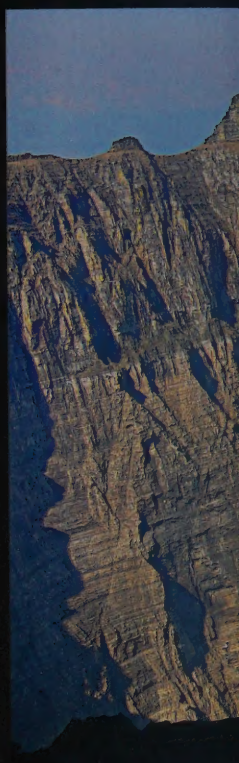
KERRY T. NICKOU
Above: Osprey with rainbow trout, Pine Grove Pond Fishing Access Site north of Kalispell

KURT CUNNINGHAM
Right: Damselfly resting on a pelican feather, Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir

ERIN BRAATEN
Above: American marten, Glacier National Park

PAUL HOLDORF
Top right: White-tailed deer, James Girard Memorial Tamarack Grove near Seeley Lake

RICK CLARK
Right: Bobcat, Helena Lewis and Clark National Forest



MIKE HINES
Above: Hiking the Heart Lake Trail near Superior

SETH ANDERSON
Top right: From atop Mount Wilbur, overlooking Iceberg Lake in Glacier National Park

JACKSON BLAND
Right: Bowhunter on horseback riding through a grove of quaking aspen

ERIC HEIDLE
Far right: Horse and mule pack train on Headquarters Pass in the Bob Marshall Wilderness

SHAWN T. STEWART
Opposite page left: Cedar waxwing in flight

JAY STYLES
Below: Eastern kingbird feeding its young

JEFF MOORE
Opposite page bottom left: Young mountain bluebird stretching its wing in Paradise Valley

DAN ELLISON
Opposite page bottom right: Calliope hummingbird near Helena

JOHN CARLSON
Bottom: Violet-green swallow stretching its wing in Yellowstone County

KEVIN LEAGUE
Right: Old Man of the Hills (left formation) and Walling Reef along the Rocky Mountain Front

CRAIG MILLER
Right: Swift fox silhouetted against a setting sun, eastern Montana

KELLY PEACOCK
Left: Snow-faced white-tailed deer grazing in a snow-covered field

PATRICK CLAYTON
Above: Arctic grayling spawning in a high mountain lake

STEVEN GNAM
Above: Moth on the water surface of the South Fork of the Flathead River

CHRISTOPHER WAGNER
Above: Summer thunderstorm over the plains of First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park near Ulm

RANGANATH PARTHASARATHY
Right: Lightning over illuminated tepees near Yellowstone National Park's Roosevelt Arch outside of Gardiner

COLTON STIFFNER
Above: Storm clouds and lightning over Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area

PAUL SIHLER
Left: Lightning storm over Helena

STEVE LUFT
Below left: Grizzly bear cub

DUANE HUIE
Below right: Black bear

DEBBIE LEFF
Bottom: Grizzly bear feeding on berries

DUANE HUIE
Top: Grizzly bear in snowy field

TRACY ENTERLINE
Above left: Black bear, Bighorn Lake

KARL KRIEGER
Above right: Black bear, Rocky Mountain Front

JEREMY ROBERTS
Above: Greater sage-grouse displaying at sunset on the CMR National Wildlife Refuge

DREW BAKER
Below: Detail of a male brook trout, Georgetown Lake

STEVEN AKRE
Opposite page: Black-billed magpie, Missoula

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JOHN LAMBING
Above: Fall colors along the Marias River near Shelby

QUINCEY PURCELL
Right: Big Hole River

MARK BOESCH
Above: Bitterroot River near Victor

SEAN R. HEAVEY
Left: Confluence of the Milk and Missouri rivers south of Nashua

MACNEIL LYONS
Right: Wolverine

MARK BOESCH
Below: Ermine near Lolo

KALON BAUGHAN
Far right top: Wolverine photographed with a camera trap in the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest

KATE AND ADAM RICE
Far right bottom: Badger and cub emerging from their den

Clockwise from right:

LIZ MOORE
Neat Coulee slot canyon in the White Cliffs section of the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument

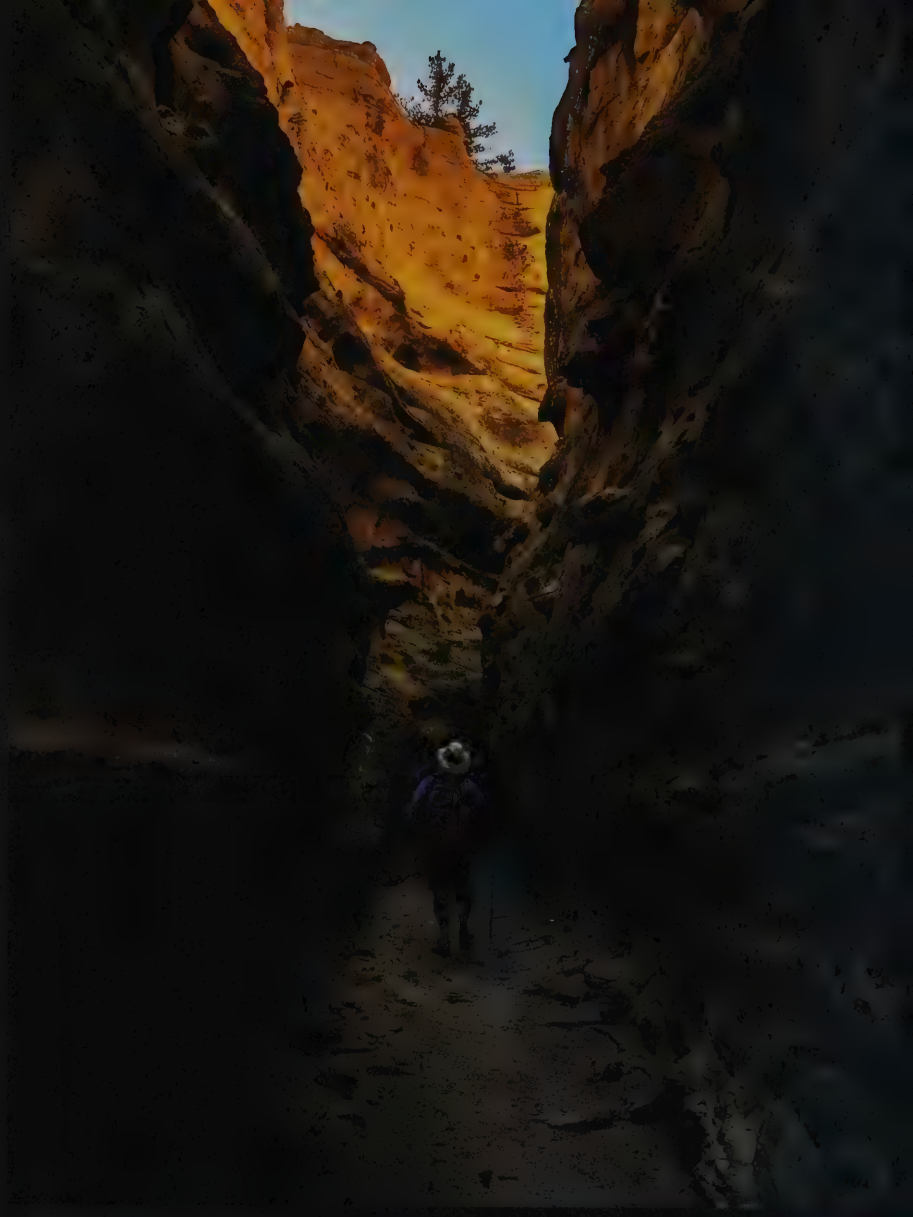
PATRICK SHEPHERD
Mission Creek Road, National Bison Range, Flathead Indian Reservation

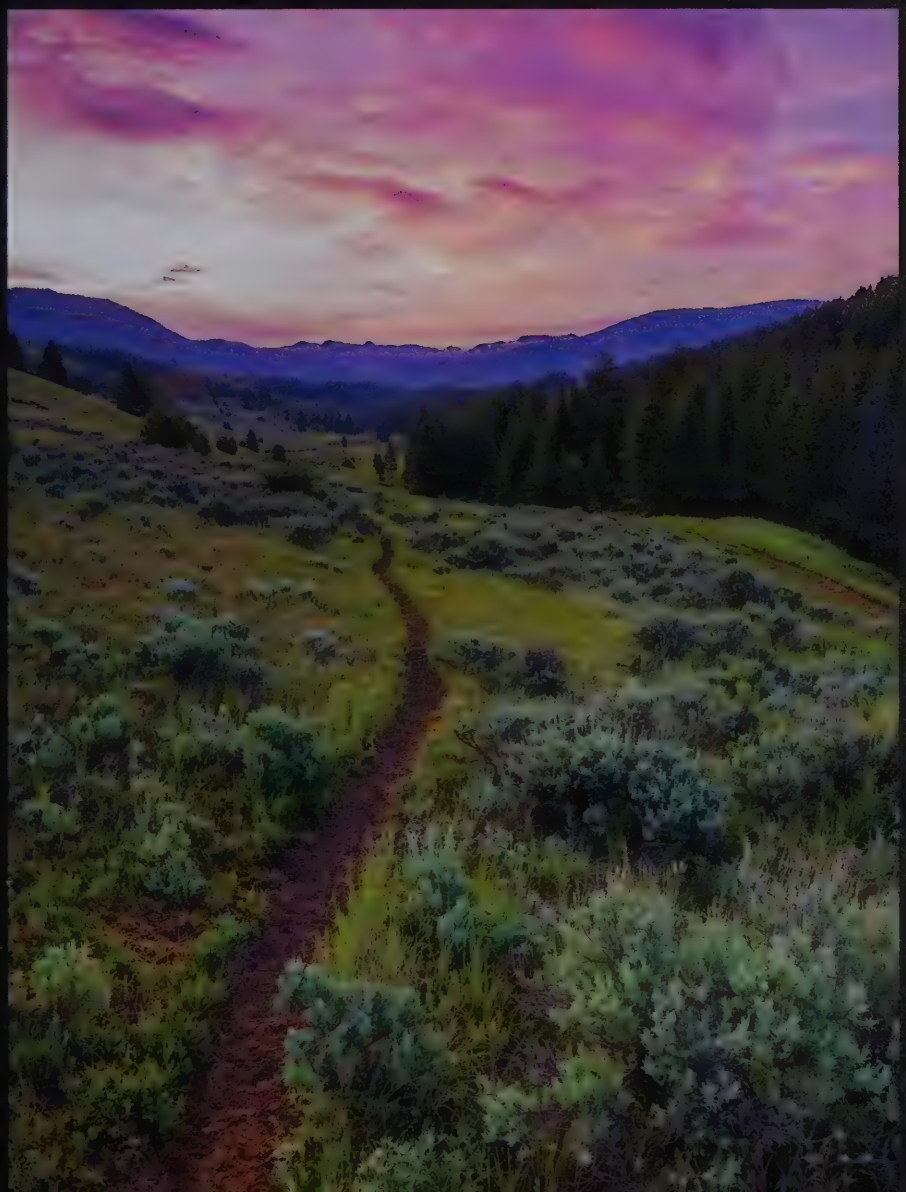
JIM HERRLY
Grizzly and elk tracks, Gravelly Range

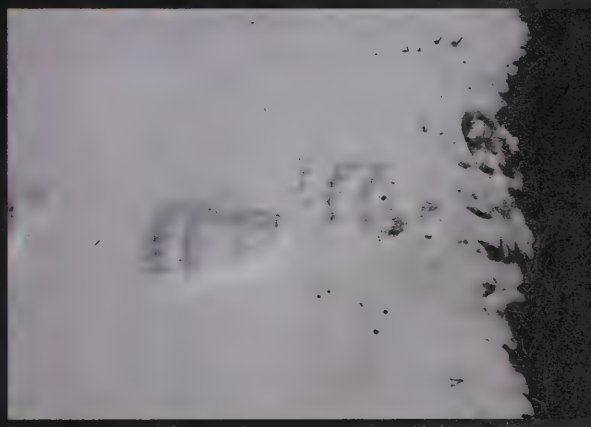
KRISTEN OSTBERG
Duck tracks near Bozeman

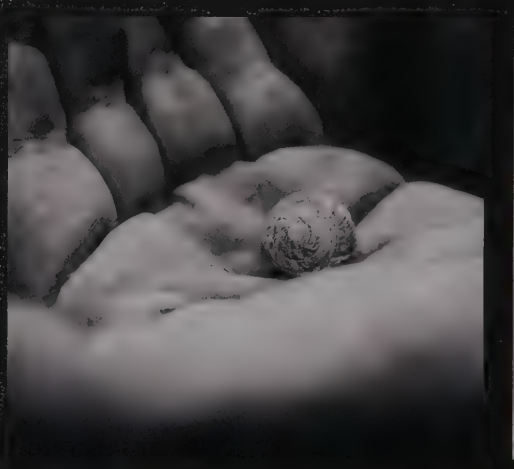
BRANDON KIESLING
Porcupine Creek Trail, Custer Gallatin National Forest

STEVE McCMORRAN
Engine pulling grain cars past an elevator at Hinsdale in northeastern Montana









GREG JOHNSON
Top: Osprey with half-eaten fish

STEVE LUFT
Above left: Moose in snowfall

ERIC HEIDLE
Above middle: Snail shell

CRAIG BARFOOT
Above right: Mountain goat on Mount Aeneas

SHAWN T. STEWART
Opposite page: Storm clouds over a ponderosa pine and a whitetail doe

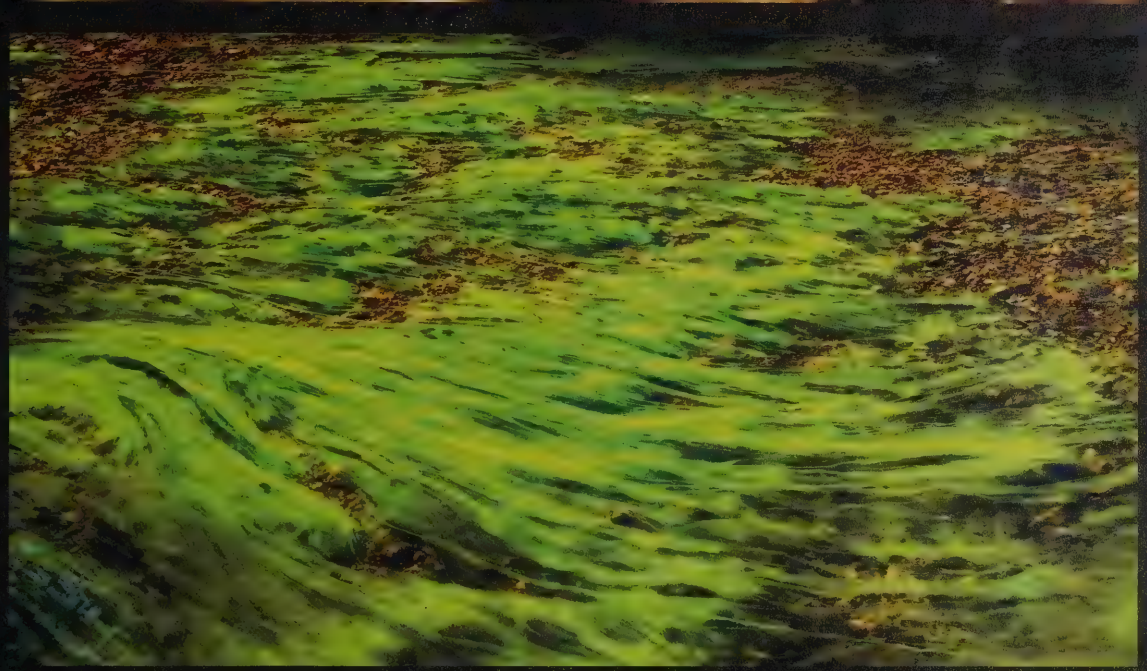
Clockwise from above:

SEAN R. HEAVEY
Silt spinning off a point of Fort Peck Reservoir at the Pines Recreation Area

ANDREA DiNINO
Sculpin, Swan River

DIANNE McDERMAND
Filamentous green algae in a mountain lake outlet stream

ZACH SHATTUCK
Caddis fly larvae in pebble casings

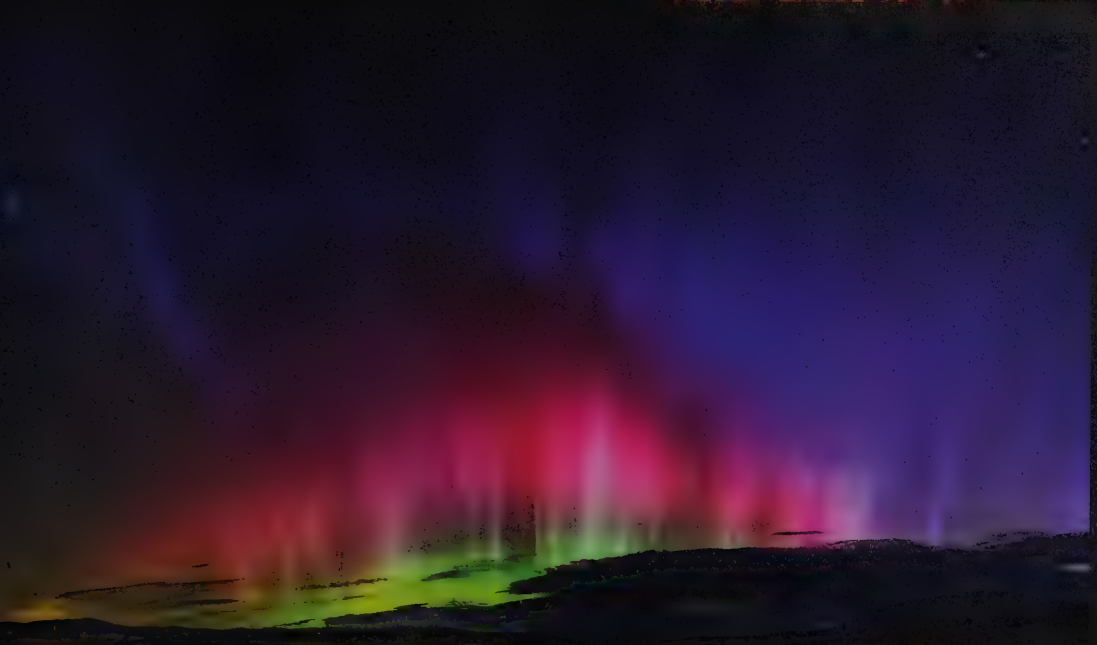


JOSHUA RUTLEDGE
Above: Bull elk emerging from brush

CHRIS AUCH
Right: Bull elk illuminated by the rising sun

JAKE WILLSON
Left: Elk herd silhouette

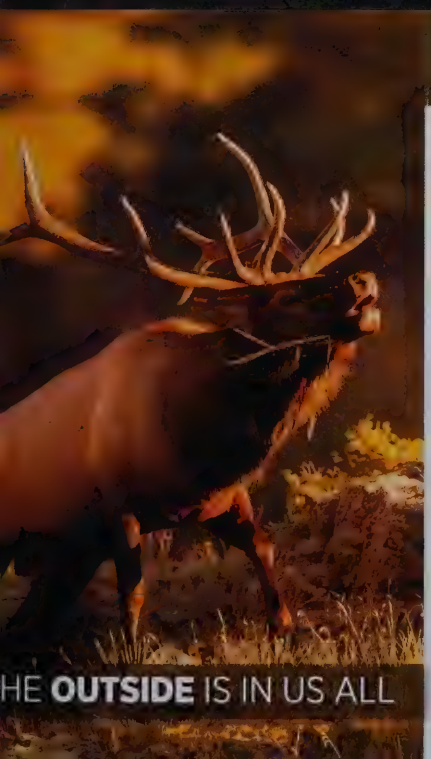
JERRY TAYLOR
Far left: Bull bugling at sunset in the Slippery Ann area of the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge



KENTON ROWE
Above: Time-lapse photograph of stars behind pictographs on a rock face in central Montana

PAUL HOLDORF
Left: Aurora borealis over Dry Creek Road near Belgrade

GRANT GOLDEN
Opposite page: Milky Way Galaxy over a campsite in the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness



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the photo issue.
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KEVIN LEAGUE
Opposite page: Sandhill crane wading in Lake Helena

STEVE McMORRAN
Top: Sandhill cranes and full moon over the Helena Valley

STEVE PARKER
Above left: Sandhill crane pair near Melrose

KYLE MOON
Above right: Sandhill crane and colt near Bozeman

DAN NICHOLS
Top: Sunset over an old stone building in the Helena Valley

JR McCURDIE
Above: Abandoned farmstead east of Brady

BILL KINNEY
Right: Great horned owl perching in an old wood outbuilding

RICHARD PRODGERS
Left: Old homestead and barn at Modesty Creek south of Deer Lodge

ERIC HEIDLE
Below: Old homestead cabins beneath the limestone cliffs at Sluice Boxes State Park

DICK WALKER
Bottom: Behind the buildings lining the main street of Bannack State Park

DONALD M. JONES
Opposite page: Columbian ground squirrel

JOEL MAES
Above left: Eastern fox squirrel

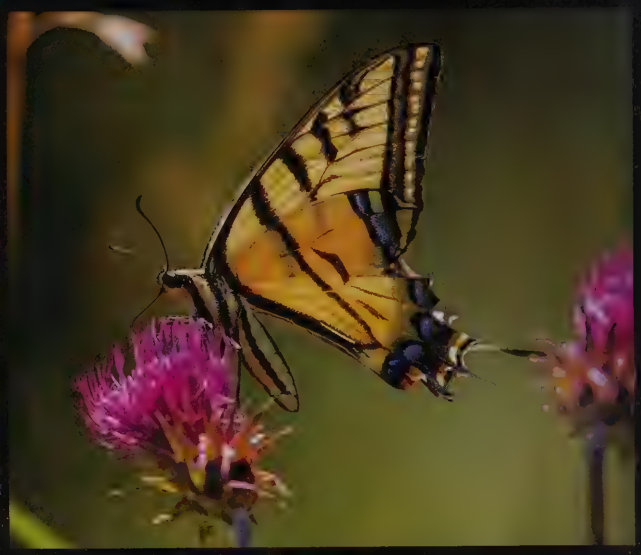
KERRY FORESMAN
Above right: Eastern fox squirrel

KATE WASSEM
Left: Red (pine) squirrel, Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge near Stevensville

ESTELLE SHUTTLEWORTH
Below left: Bumblebee

BECCA WOOD
Below right: Western tiger swallowtail butterfly, Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest

BARBARA GARTEN
Bottom: Arrowleaf balsamroot and lupine in bloom, Bitterroot Valley



RANDY SMITH
Top left: Western tanager
near Dillon

JERRY TAYLOR
Above left: Western meadowlark,
Swamp Creek near Big Timber

SHARON DEWART-HANSEN
Top right: Common yellowthroat
near Helena

BOB MARTINKA
Above right: Yellow warbler,
Grizzly Gulch near Helena

BILL KINNEY
Right: Raptor silhouetted against a smoky sun

BRETT THUMA
Below: 2022 Garceau Gulch Fire near Hot Springs

CHRIS McGOWAN
Opposite page: Full moon over a burned forest near Lake McDonald, Glacier National Park

NATHAN COOPER
Top: Ice formation on the lower Missouri River

KEN PLOURDE
Above left: Buffaloberry branches and fruit against hoar frost

ELISE HOMME
Above right: Ice crystals on grass leaves

STEVEN GNAM
Left: Mountain goat in the Flathead Range, Great Bear Wilderness

DAVID GAITONDE
Below: The Stillwater Trail up to Sioux Charley Lake, Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness

BRETT SWAIN
Top: Mule deer doe in patch of arrowleaf balsamroot

CAROL POLICH
Above: Mule deer doe in field

TOM REICHNER
Right: Whitetail buck in teasel

CHARLES RENFRO
Left: Cow and calf moose in a northwestern Montana lake

TRISH HUDDLESTON
Below: Bull moose

CHUCK HANEY
Opposite page: Ice formations with colored stones in the water below along Lake McDonald in Glacier National Park

LORNA MASON
Top: Rainbow reflections near Clancy

LAURA SAWAYA
Left: Mammatus cloud formation near Missoula

COLIN RUGGIERO
Starry sky over Rosebud County in southeastern Montana

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STEVEN AKRE
Detail of a tiger swallowtail butterfly, near Missoula

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